



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT TEENAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO SHOOTING PEPCO WORKER

– Man shot while working to restore power to neighborhood–

WASHINGTON - A 17-year-old District teenager, Marlo Johnson, pleaded guilty Friday, May 21, 2010, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Ronna Beck in connection with a December 3, 2009, shooting of a PEPCO Worker near the intersection of Rhode Island and First Streets NW, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Defendant Johnson pleaded guilty to Aggravated Assault While Armed in connection with the shooting, in which the PEPCO Worker had been shot in the back of his head.

According to the government's evidence presented at the plea hearing, on December 3, 2009, around 7:15 p.m., a group of employees for the PEPCO utility company were working to restore power to local homes and businesses in the 1900 block of First Street NW, Washington, D.C., which is Johnson's neighborhood. While walking down the street, Johnson made eye contact with one of the PEPCO workers and stated "What are you looking at?" Without any provocation other than this mere eye contact, Johnson walked up to the PEPCO worker, pushed him, and started to fight. The PEPCO worker wrestled Johnson to the ground, subduing him, but Johnson punched the PEPCO worker in the face and then ran away.

After Johnson left, the other PEPCO workers feared that Johnson might return to further harm their co-worker. Accordingly, they had the co-worker sit inside their large PEPCO truck that was parked on the street. True to their fears, minutes later, Johnson returned armed with a .22 caliber pistol. Johnson was angry, yelling at the PEPCO workers, "Where's he at!? Where's he at!?" At that moment, another PEPCO worker – the victim – realized that the door to the PEPCO truck was open and that his co-worker was still visible inside. To protect his co-worker, the victim hurriedly walked over to close the door. As he was doing so, Johnson observed the victim's co-worker with whom he had been fighting, lifted his pistol, and fired one shot. Rather than striking his intended target, the bullet struck the victim as he was closing the door to protect his co-worker. The bullet struck the victim in the back of his head, settling beneath his skull. Johnson fled the scene, while the victim bled profusely from the neck.

Johnson, who was 17-years-old at the time of the offense, was charged as an adult. Johnson faces a maximum sentence of 30 years' incarceration when he is sentenced on August 27, 2010.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended MPD Detective Steve Manley of the Fifth District Criminal Investigation Division, who led the investigation, as well as Officers Jonathan Jordan, John Wright, Douglas Hain, Duriel Barnes, and Dante Myles. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, who prepared the case for indictment, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Kavanaugh, who investigated and indicted the case.

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